Blackmarketing of Petrol Products due to Imposition of Curbs in their Sale

1355. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that its new policy of petrol sale curb has led to hoarding and blackmarketing of petroleum products;

(b) whether Government have received memoranda from many sections of people and organisations in the country to withdraw its order to close down petrol pumps on Sundays and the reduction of working hours at pump stations;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) what is the estimated saving due to the curbs imposed recently?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADMSWAMY): (a) and (b) Government have received mixed reactions to the recently announced measures to curb the consumption of petroleum products. Some reports regarding hoarding and blackmarketing have also been received.

(c) Government, after examining the representations and reactions received, have partially relaxed the restrictions placed on operations of petrol pumps and have permitted them to be kept open from 7.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon on Sundays.

(d) The estimated saving of petroleum products will be about 1.8 million tonnes valued at about Rs. 550 crores for the period July ('90 to March' 91).

Treatment of AIDS Patients

1356. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has recently taken some steps to control and treatment of AIDS patients in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken;

(c) whether most of the AIDS patients have been identified in Bombay; and

(d) if so, what further steps Government propose to take to treat AIDS patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) The expert group constituted by ICMR recommended as under:—

—There is a need for formulation and implementation of appropriate policies for providing health care to infected individuals so that as and when needed they will receive humane and sympathetic handling counselling and appropriate health care and at the same time there is no risk of accidental infection.

—Provision of Health education to the risk groups and the general population and the strengthening of infection control measures.

—Rigid implementation of infection control measures in health care delivery system.

—Health education to seropositive individuals and their families is essential to ensure containment of HIV infection.

—All donors of blood and organs will always be tested for HIV antibodies. HIV testing may be done wherever there is a statutory re-